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INDICATIONS JOURNAL

NSA, DIA reviews completed

1 April 1955

1. Indo-China - Military and Logistic
(Info Date - March 1955)

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[redacted] the Viet Minh are concerned over the infiltration of Northwest Laos by Chinese Nationalist forces in the area of Muong Sing (21° 10', 101° 15'). The Viet minh estimate that some 2,000 Nationalists have infiltrated this region since early March and that these forces plan to attack the Pathet Lao at Boum Tay (near Muong Sing). According to a Viet Minh radio broadcast, the Pathet Lao in a statement of 6 March strongly protested the infiltration of KMT remnants into Laos under US instruction. It was further stated that the total number of such troops in the region amounted to about 3,000.

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[redacted] the current estimate of Pathet Lao strength is about 5,000 [redacted]

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The present of these KMT forces may be used by the Viet Minh as the pretext for an overt move into Laotian territory [redacted]

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[redacted] It is known that the Viet Minh are actively supporting the Pathet Lao military organization with the apparent aim of ensuring Communist domination of the two northern provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua in Laos.
(See item no. 3, 29 March 55)

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2. Indo- China - Military
(Info Date - December 1954)

Reports of developments in the Viet Minh underground south of the 17th Parallel (See no. 2, 28 Mar 55) are supported by further reports now coming available.

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[redacted] the Viet Minh have substituted recruits and poorly trained guerrillas for regular troops in units being evacuated from the South under the terms of the Geneva cease-fire agreement, thus leaving experienced cadres behind. [redacted]

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3. General - Medical
(Info Date - 1953 -1955)

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[REDACTED] Chinese request for immediate delivery of 171,000 pairs of surgical gloves of a total of 593,000 pairs scheduled for delivery from Czechoslovakia in 1955. The 1955 total represents a major increase over the 1954 total order from Czechoslovakia of 320,000 pairs, of which only 280,000 were apparently delivered. (A 40,000 carryover is known to be included in the scheduled 1955 figure of 593,000.) It is likely that China imports surgical gloves from sources other than Czechoslovakia, but no information on deliveries from other sources is immediately available.

[REDACTED] The number of surgical gloves mentioned is far in excess of normal demands from China's 30,000 (est.) licensed physicians. Although medical schools have expanded rapidly, only 11,000 doctors and 52,000 medical assistants were trained during 1950-54. At present China's medical schools have an enrollment of 30,000 students.

While the stepped-up delivery schedule of these items for 1955 may have military significance, it may also merely reflect a growing effort to instill modern sanitation practices and equipment among public health workers, whose numbers have been estimated as high as 600,000 individuals. This group includes midwives, nurses, re-trained herb doctors and other relatively unskilled medical workers who have been pressed into service because of the acute shortage of fully trained medical doctors.

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